



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 05831-18 J.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C202138009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 21, 2018, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 21, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner, as the prior caregiver of her minor asthmatic son, had received 60 months of EA benefits while awaiting a determination on her application to secure Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits on behalf of her son. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-4, R-5. On November 24, 2017, Petitioner's SSI application was denied, and Petitioner did not appeal the denial. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3. The record reflects that Petitioner's son attends school full-time, and she has not verified with an updated medical form that she remains his caretaker. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Based on the foregoing, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, effective March 14, 2018, and the ALJ agreed, finding that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all applicable extensions. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d), -6.9. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

JUL - 9 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

